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Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations

Budget performance for the period from 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013 and proposed budget for the period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015 of the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy

Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

Appropriation for 2012/13	$68,627,000
Expenditure for 2012/13	$68,622,400
Unencumbered balance for 2012/13	$4,600
Appropriation for 2013/14	$68,517,000
Projected expenditure for 2013/14[a]	$68,502,600
Estimated underexpenditure for 2013/14[a]	$14,400
Proposal submitted by the Secretary-General for 2014/15	$71,485,900
Recommendation of the Advisory Committee for 2014/15	$70,338,600

[a] Estimates as at 11 March 2014.

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I. Introduction

1. **The recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions contained in the paragraphs below would entail an overall net reduction of $1,147,300 to the proposed budget of the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy (UNLB), for the period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015.**

2. During its consideration of the financing of UNLB, the Advisory Committee met with representatives of the Secretary-General, who provided additional information and clarification, concluding with written responses received on 1 April 2014. The documents reviewed and those used for background by the Committee are listed at the end of the present report.

3. The Secretary-General's proposals for UNLB for 2014/15 should be considered in conjunction with his fourth annual progress report on the implementation of the global field support strategy and annex I of his overview report on the financing of peacekeeping operations (see A/68/637 and A/68/731), as well as the observations and recommendations of the Board of Auditors emanating from its audit of the implementation of the global field support strategy (see A/68/5 (Vol. II), chap. II). The Advisory Committee's detailed observations and recommendations on the findings of the Board of Auditors on the United Nations peacekeeping operations for the period from 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013 and on cross-cutting issues related to peacekeeping operations, including the implementation of the global field support strategy, can be found in its related reports (A/68/843 and A/68/782, respectively).

II. Budget performance for the period from 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013

4. By its resolution 66/266, the General Assembly appropriated an amount of $68,627,000 gross ($62,771,100 net) for the maintenance of UNLB for the period from 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013 and decided to apply $50 million from the strategic deployment stocks against the resources required for UNLB for the same period. The remaining balance has been assessed on Member States. Expenditures for the period totalled $68,622,400 gross ($62,828,000 net), resulting in an unencumbered balance of $4,600 gross, which represents, in gross terms, full utilization of the appropriation. In net terms, UNLB registered an overexpenditure of $56,900 for the period from 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013. A detailed analysis of variances is provided in section IV of the performance report (A/68/575).

5. According to the Secretary-General, the milestones achieved during the performance reporting period included: (a) the finalization of the dynamic uninterruptible power supply multi-year project; (b) the upgrading of the electrical system in the logistics sector; and (c) the preparation for the implementation of Umoja in peacekeeping operations (ibid., para. 9).

6. Higher-than-budgeted expenditures were incurred in the 2012/13 period under, inter alia:

(a) Facilities and infrastructure ($2,411,900, or 29.5 per cent), attributable to the cost of completing the dynamic uninterruptible power supply system project,

which had been planned to be carried out during the 2011/12 financial period but had been delayed until the 2012/13 period owing to a lengthy procurement process, and the cost of completing the electrification of the logistics sector, which had also been delayed from the prior financial period, as the selected vendor could not complete the contracted activities as a result of financial difficulties;

(b) Information technology ($1,088,400, or 15.3 per cent), owing mainly to the preparation of the information and communications technology infrastructure of the Global Service Centre to support the implementation of Umoja in UNLB and in field missions;

(c) International staff ($258,000, or 1.3 per cent), owing to an increase by 10 points in the post-adjustment multiplier beginning in January 2013, as decided by the International Civil Service Commission, and a lower actual vacancy rate of 15.4 per cent for international staff, as compared with the budgeted rate of 18 per cent;

(d) General temporary assistance ($256,300, or 46.7 per cent), attributable mainly to additional requirements for the replacement of staff members on maternity, paternity and long-term sick leave, and additional requirements to support the preparation for the implementation of Umoja in field missions.

7. The higher requirements were offset in part by lower-than-budgeted expenditures under:

(a) National staff ($1,742,900, or 7.9 per cent), resulting principally from lower-than-budgeted actual common staff costs, the positive impact of the appreciation of the United States dollar against the euro and a higher actual vacancy rate of 6.3 per cent for national staff, compared with the budgeted rate of 5 per cent;

(b) Communications ($1,829,800, or 27 per cent), attributable primarily to a decision to share 50 per cent of the cost of outsourcing the Network Control Centre of the Global Service Centre with the benefiting field missions;[1]

[1] The cost of outsourcing the Network Control Centre of the Global Service Centre is shared by the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID), the Cameroon-Nigeria Mixed Commission, the Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator for Lebanon, the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA), the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq, the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force, the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste, the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in the Central African Republic, the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau, the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Sierra Leone, the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK), the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), the United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan, the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara, the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL), the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS), the United Nations Office in Burundi, the United Nations Office for West Africa (UNOWA), the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI), the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO), the United Nations Political Office for Somalia, the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus, the United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia, the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa (UNOCA), the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti, the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL), the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSOA) and the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization.

(c) Official travel ($133,400, or 10.5 per cent), owing to a decision to reduce travel, such as within-mission travel for the Base Support Service, which was replaced, when practicable, by video- and teleconferencing, and the fact that the information and communications technology conference did not take place, as it is now held on a biennial, rather than annual, basis.

8. The comments of the Advisory Committee on the information presented in the performance report with respect to individual objects of expenditure can be found, where relevant, in the discussion of the proposed budget for the period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015 in section IV below.

III. Financial position and information on performance for the current period

9. The Advisory Committee was informed that as at 31 January 2014, expenditure for the 2013/14 period amounted to $40,000,800 gross, against an apportionment of $68,517,000 gross. For the entire financial period, current and projected expenditures amount to $68,502,600, leaving a projected unencumbered balance of $14,400. As at 10 February 2014, available cash amounted to $118,400,000 (including cash funds available for strategic deployment stocks), inclusive of a three-month operating reserve in the amount of $17,129,000.

10. The Advisory Committee was informed that as at 31 January 2014, the incumbency rates for UNLB, were as follows:

Category	*Authorized*	*Planned*	*Encumbered*	*Vacancy rate (percentage)*
Global Service Centre and the facility in Valencia, Spain, excluding tenant units				
Posts				
International staff	84	84	74	11.9
National staff	279	279	265	5.0
General temporary assistance				
National staff	6	6	4	33.3
Tenant units				
Posts				
International staff	46	46	37	19.6
National staff	5	5	5	0.0
Total, Global Service Centre and the Valencia facility, including tenant units				
Posts				
International staff	130	130	111	14.6
National staff	284	284	270	4.9
General temporary assistance				
National staff	6	6	4	33.3

11. The Advisory Committee recalls that the General Assembly, in its resolution 67/288, endorsed the view of the Committee that the two posts that the Secretary-General had assigned to Valencia to perform education grant processing should be returned to Brindisi without further delay (A/67/780/Add.10, para. 27). In this regard, the Secretary- General indicates that the two education grant processing posts assigned in Valencia were returned to Brindisi by the end of May 2013 (see A/68/727, sect. V.B).

IV. Proposed budget for the period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015

A. Objective and planned results

12. As indicated in the report of the Secretary-General on the budget for UNLB for 2014/15 (A/68/727), the Global Service Centre, as the enabling arm of the Department of Field Support, will support field missions through a field-focused operational model, and its major operational and resourcing priorities for 2014/15 are based on the end-state vision of the global field support strategy for the Centre. According to the Secretary-General, the Global Support Centre will have evolved from a logistics base, focused primarily on transportation and distribution services, to the envisaged holistic and integrated operational centre for information and communications technology, logistics and supply chain management. With specialization and right-sourcing as guiding principles, the Centre will become a hub for global supply chain management under the strategic direction of the Department of Field Support and in close consultation with the Procurement Division of the Department of Management at Headquarters (ibid., para. 7). The Global Service Centre will continue to support three hosted tenant units: the Standing Police Capacity, the Justice and Corrections Standing Capacity and the Integrated Training Service, which all report to the Department of Peacekeeping Operations.

13. According to the Secretary-General, as part of the global field support strategy, the Global Service Centre operates as a unified entity, comprising UNLB and the United Nations Support Base in Valencia, Spain, to provide global information and communications technology, logistics and supply chain operational management, as well as enabling support services throughout the life cycle of field missions, from start-up planning and preparation to liquidation (ibid., para. 3). In this regard, the Advisory Committee recalls that the General Assembly, in section IV, paragraphs 15 and 16, of its resolution 63/262, approved the Secretary-General's proposal to host a secondary active telecommunications facility at Valencia in order to support peacekeeping activities, and decided not to proceed with plans to host computing and data storage equipment relating to Secretariat business continuity operations and enterprise solutions at the facility. Subsequently, in paragraph 105 of its resolution 66/246, the Assembly endorsed the proposal of the Secretary-General contained in paragraph 121 of his report on enterprise information and communications technology initiatives for the United Nations Secretariat (A/66/94), inter alia: (a) to implement two enterprise data centres, one at UNLB and one at the secondary active telecommunications facility at Valencia; and (b) to host all enterprise applications (Umoja, e-mail, Inspira, iNeed and the enterprise identity management system) centrally, in enterprise data centres, thereby consolidating the infrastructure

and support resources for the applications. The Committee makes further comments and recommendations on this matter in section III of its report on cross-cutting issues related to peacekeeping operations (A/68/782).

Deployment of the Global Service Centre in two locations

14. The Advisory Committee recalls its view, endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 66/266, that the proposed modified concept for the deployment of the Global Service Centre in 2013/14 in two geographically distinct locations, namely Brindisi and Valencia, constituted a major change from the initial proposals for the strategy and that it would be necessary for the Secretary-General to submit, for consideration and approval by the General Assembly, a comprehensive study clarifying the rationale for deploying the Centre in two locations (A/66/718/Add.15, para. 22). The Committee recalls that in his third progress report on the implementation of the global field support strategy, the Secretary-General did not put forward any proposals or studies clarifying the rationale for deploying the Global Service Centre in two locations, namely, Brindisi and Valencia (see A/67/780/Add.10, para. 31), and that the Assembly reiterated its request for the comprehensive study in paragraph 5 of its resolution 67/288. The Committee notes that the requested study has not been included in the Secretary-General's fourth progress report (A/67/637). In this regard, it is indicated in the report of the Secretary-General that no additional proposals have been made, nor are envisaged in the future, with respect to extending the functions of the Valencia facility beyond the information and communications technology functions already approved by the General Assembly, and that, as such, the comprehensive study regarding the deployment of the Global Service Centre in two locations has not been undertaken (see A/68/727, sect. V).

15. **The Advisory Committee reiterates the importance of abiding by the resolutions of the General Assembly (resolutions 66/266 and 67/288) and emphasizes that as long as no changes to the approved arrangements are decided by the Assembly, the facility at Valencia should be utilized by the Secretariat, strictly in accordance with its relevant decisions, as a secondary active telecommunications facility for peacekeeping and for hosting enterprise data centres and enterprise applications such as Umoja, e-mail and Inspira. In this regard, the Committee also reiterates its recommendation that the Secretary-General be requested to ensure the application of a consistent designation of the facility throughout the documents submitted for consideration by the Assembly, reflecting its use for communications and information technology purposes (A/67/780/Add.10, para. 31), as separate from the Global Service Centre.**

Proposed structure of the Service for Geospatial, Information and Telecommunications Technologies

16. For the period 2014/15, the Secretary-General indicates that, given the increased complexity and scope of the Global Service Centre's responsibilities with regard to communications and information technology services, it is proposed that the Communications and Information Technology Service in Valencia and the Communications and Information Technology Service in Brindisi, which are both currently headed at the P-5 level, be unified as a single Centre, to be referred to as the Field Technology Operations Centre. The two existing Services would form,

along with the current Geographic Information Systems Centre, a new Service for Geospatial, Information and Telecommunications Technologies (A/68/727, paras. 17 and 19). According to the Secretary-General, the centre of gravity of the activities of the Field Technology Operations Centre, from the perspectives of hosting and connectivity, the majority of the information, communications technology support personnel, as well as the leadership positions of the Field Technology Operations Centre implementation partners, are all located in Valencia. Consequently, the Secretary-General proposes to reclassify the post of Chief, Communications and Information Technology Service, in Valencia from the current P-5 level to the D-1 level, to serve as Chief of the proposed new Service for Geospatial, Information and Telecommunications Technologies in Valencia (ibid., para. 56). The proposed upgraded post of Chief of Service in Valencia would lead the following Sections, which are all located both in Brindisi and Valencia: the Network Support Section; the Satellite Engineering Support Section; the Data Centre Support Section; and the Technology Infrastructure Support Section. In addition, the proposed upgraded post of Chief of Service in Valencia would lead the new, expanded Geospatial Information Systems Centre, which would be located in Brindisi and is proposed to be headed at the P-5 level.

17. The Advisory Committee recalls that, in its previous report on UNLB, it had recommended that the Secretary-General be requested to take the opportunity afforded by the restructuring of the Communications and Information Technology Service to re-engineer, consolidate and standardize processes in order to achieve improved service delivery as well as greater efficiencies and economies of scale and to report comprehensively thereon in his next report on UNLB (A/67/780/Add.10, para. 35). In that regard, the Secretary-General states that during the 2014/15 period, the following key strategic priorities will shape the roles and levels of responsibility as well as the operations and activities related to information and communications technology services: (a) the expansion of the information and communications technology hosting services to support the needs of the entire Organization; (b) the expansion of the Umoja information and communications technology support infrastructure to support Umoja extensions 2 and 3; (c) the migration, hosting and support of the Inspira system; (d) the establishment of a global Umoja user help desk; (e) the centralization of the operational resilience infrastructure and systems; (f) the provision of centralized infrastructure monitoring and support services; and (g) the implementation of an information and communications technology regional hub for the missions that are not covered by mechanisms in the Middle East and East Africa (A/68/727, para. 16).

18. According to the Secretary-General, the centralization of information and communications technology services in the Global Service Centre is proposed in the context of increased demand for support and the complexity of such services, and the successive launches of new, enterprise-wide efforts that are highly dependent on information and communications technology resources for their successful implementation (ibid., para. 24). It is indicated in the report of the Secretary-General that the proposal for the unification of the telecommunications and information technology services in Brindisi and Valencia under the oversight of the proposed Field Technology Operations Centre is in keeping with the establishment of the Valencia facility by the General Assembly in its resolution 63/262 as a secondary telecommunications centre (ibid., sect. V.B). By the beginning of the 2014/15 period, the hosting of Inspira is proposed to be transferred from its current

commercial host location in Texas, United States of America, to Valencia to enhance performance for users in the field and to leverage economies of scale across the Secretariat. In addition, the Advisory Committee notes that the Secretary-General proposes an amount of $797,000 under the support account budget for the Office of Information and Communications Technology for 2014/15 (A/68/742, paras. 537-539) for the relocation of hosting services for the Inspira system to the facility in Valencia. The Secretary-General states that these resources were previously presented in the proposal of the Office of Human Resources Management, and that there are no additional resource requirements resulting from the change in hosting services from a third-party vendor to the Global Service Centre. The Committee comments further on the hosting of Inspira in its report on the support account (A/68/861).

19. **The Advisory Committee considers that the proposed organizational structure of the Service for Geospatial, Information and Telecommunications Technologies for 2014/15 does not appear to build on synergies between the related Sections in Brindisi and Valencia, nor does it result in any reduction in the overall staffing in the Global Service Centre and Valencia.**

20. **The Advisory Committee is of the view that the proposal to locate the leadership of the Service for Geospatial, Information and Telecommunications Technologies in Valencia does not conform to its mandated role as secondary active telecommunications facility and for hosting the enterprise data centres and enterprise applications. The Committee therefore recommends against the proposal to establish the leadership of the proposed Service in Valencia.** The Committee comments further on the proposed reclassification of the post of Chief of the Information and Communications Technology Service in Valencia to the D-1 level in paragraph 33 below.

Financing of Umoja and other enterprise systems applications in peacekeeping operations

21. The Advisory Committee was informed, upon enquiry, that the Secretary-General did not seek to assign additional functions to Valencia beyond those approved by the General Assembly; that Valencia was only performing the information and communications technology roles mandated by the General Assembly; and that there were no plans to expand those functions beyond existing authorizations provided by the General Assembly. Furthermore, according to the Secretary-General, resource requirements for the facility at Valencia have always been included in the budget of UNLB.

22. The Advisory Committee was informed upon enquiry that, as at 25 February 2014, a total of 3,197 personnel were deployed in peacekeeping system-wide in geospatial. communications and information technology services, comprising 787 international staff, 990 national staff, 415 United Nations Volunteers and 1,005 contractual personnel. The Committee was further informed that of the 1,005 communications and information technology contractual personnel, a total of 114 were deployed in the Global Service Centre in Brindisi, while a total of 197 were deployed in Valencia. **The Committee recommends that the Secretary-General be requested to ensure that the personnel in the Global Service Centre and in Valencia be drawn from as wide a geographical basis as possible, and to provide**

detailed information on all types of personnel in the Global Service Centre and in Valencia in his proposed budget for UNLB for the 2015/16 period.

23. In his overview report on the financing of United Nations peacekeeping operations, the Secretary-General indicates that, although no provision had been made in previous financial periods in the budgets of peacekeeping operations for the infrastructure to support Umoja and other enterprise systems, funds in the total amounts of $3 million, $13.2 million and $10.8 million were redeployed in 2011/12, 2012/13 and 2013/14, respectively, to cover these requirements within approved resources (A/68/731, para. 247). The Committee further notes that the implementation of Umoja and all other enterprise applications deployed in the field requires a total amount of $37.3 million for the period 2014/15, which has been included in the proposed budget of each peacekeeping mission (ibid., para. 243). In addition, the peacekeeping share of the requirements for the Umoja project are provided under the support account in the amounts of $37.3 million for the 2012/13 period, $18.7 million for the 2013/14 period, and $20 million proposed for the 2014/15 period. **The Advisory Committee has not, however, been provided with evidence of efficiencies or economies of scale achieved by the transfer of enterprise systems applications development and support from various locations in the Secretariat to Valencia.** The Committee makes further comments and recommendations on the financing of information and communications technology services in section III of its report on cross-cutting issues related to peacekeeping issues (A/68/782).

24. **The Advisory Committee emphasizes the need to ensure detailed and transparent accounting and reporting on the costs of the operations of the Enterprise Data Centres at Brindisi and Valencia. The Committee notes that enterprise systems initiatives, including Umoja and Inspira, are financed from the regular budget, the support account and the budgets of individual peacekeeping missions, as well as from extrabudgetary sources. In its report on cross-cutting issues related to peacekeeping operations, the Committee has recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to reflect, in a fully transparent manner in future budget submissions and performance reports of the United Nations Logistics Base, the totality of the resources made available to the United Nations Logistics Base and the facility in Valencia for hosting and providing Umoja support services, including cost-recovery income received from peacekeeping operations and other user departments/offices/entities (see A/68/782).** The Committee makes comments and recommendations concerning the need for an audit of information and communications technology services in peacekeeping missions in section III of its report on cross-cutting issues relating to peacekeeping operations (A/68/782).

B. Resource requirements

25. The proposed budget for UNLB for the period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015 amounts to $71,485,900 gross ($65,161,000 net), representing an increase of $2,968,900 in gross terms, or 4.3 per cent, compared with the apportionment of $68,517,000 for 2013/14. The Advisory Committee notes that the proposed increase in resources for 2014/15 would amount to $2,983,300, or 4.3 per cent, compared with the projected expenditure of $68,502,600 for 2013/14 (see para. 9 above). This increase is mainly attributable to the application of lower vacancy factors for

civilian posts compared with the vacancy factors applied for 2013/14, based on latest incumbency, an increase of the post adjustment multiplier and a proposed net increase of five posts. The budget provides for the deployment of 133 international staff, 286 national staff and 6 temporary positions funded under general temporary assistance.

I. Civilian personnel

Category	*Approved 2013/14*[a]	*Proposed 2014/15*[a]	*Variance*
International staff	130	133	3
National staff	284	286	2
Temporary positions[b]	6	6	–

[a] Represents the highest level of authorized/proposed strength.
[b] Funded under general temporary assistance.

26. The estimated requirements for civilian personnel for the 2014/15 period amount to $45,871,300, representing an increase of $3,740,300, or 8.9 per cent, compared with the apportionment of $42,131,000 for 2013/14. The overall increase reflects higher requirements for: (a) international staff, amounting to $2,840,000, or 13.5 per cent, attributable primarily to the application of lower vacancy factors, an increase of 10 points in the post adjustment multiplier starting in January 2014 and the proposed net increase of three posts (A/68/727, para. 69); (b) national staff, amounting to $740,800, or 3.6 per cent, owing to the application of a lower exchange rate of the Euro against the United States dollar and the proposed net increase of two national General Service posts (ibid., para. 70); and (c) general temporary assistance, amounting to $159,500, or 39.2 per cent, owing to the application of a lower vacancy rate and to the higher provision made for replacement of staff on sick, maternity or paternity leave in line with recent expenditure patterns (ibid., para. 71).

27. Information on the vacancy rates used to estimate costs for the 2014/15 period is provided in paragraphs 63 and 64 of the proposed budget (A/68/727). The proposed budget for 2014/15 provides for a lower vacancy rate of 9 per cent for international staff, excluding the tenant units, compared with the 17 per cent rate provided for in the current budget. A lower rate of 6 per cent is applied for national staff, including for the tenant units, as compared with the 6.3 per cent rate budgeted in 2013/14. Regarding the temporary positions, the proposed budget for 2014/15 provides for a lower vacancy rate of 10 per cent, compared with the 25 per cent rate budgeted in 2013/14. The Secretary-General indicates that the vacancy rates reflect the latest actual incumbency levels and trends at the time of budget preparation. In the supplementary information provided to it, the Advisory Committee was informed that the actual vacancy rate for international staff, excluding the tenant units, was 15.5 per cent for the period 2012/13, and that, in January 2014, the rate was 11.9 per cent. The Committee was further informed that the actual vacancy rate for temporary positions was 33.3 per cent for the 2012/13 period and that in January 2014 the actual vacancy rate remained at 33.3 per cent.

28. **The Advisory Committee believes that budgeted vacancy rates should be based, as much as possible, on actual vacancy rates. In cases where the proposed budgeted rates differ from the actual rates at the time of the budget**

preparation, clear justification should be provided in related budget documents for the rates used. The Committee therefore recommends that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to apply a vacancy rate of 12 per cent for international staff, excluding the tenant units, and 30 per cent for general temporary assistance positions in UNLB for the 2014/15 period.

Recommendations on posts

New posts

29. The Secretary-General proposes the establishment of a post of Conduct and Discipline Officer at the P-4 level in Brindisi, the incumbent of which would be responsible for: (a) all prevention activities, including training sessions for all Global Service Centre personnel and predeployment training on standards of conduct, prohibited conduct and prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse; (b) processing of allegations of misconduct at the Centre; and (c) provision of advice to field personnel. According to the Secretary-General, the conduct and discipline function in the Global Service Centre is currently addressed through a focal point who deals with such matters in addition to his or her core functions (A/68/727, para. 43), and the Global Service Centre would in the 2014/15 period have a regional role in conduct and discipline by extending such support to UNMIK. In his report on the financing of UNMIK, the Secretary-General proposes the abolishment of the Conduct and Discipline Unit in UNMIK, resulting in the proposed abolishment of two posts (A/68/701, para. 10). In its report on the financing of the United Nations Mission in Kosovo, however, the Advisory Committee has recommended against the proposed abolishment of the Conduct and Discipline Unit (see A/68/782/Add.5, para 24). **The Committee is of the view that, absent the need to provide regional functions on behalf of UNMIK, the existing capacity of the Base in the area of conduct and discipline is sufficient to meet its requirements in the 2014/15 period; it therefore recommends against the approval of the proposed post of Conduct and Discipline Officer (P-4).**

30. In paragraphs 46 to 55 of his report, the Secretary-General describes in detail the proposed functions of the new Geospatial Information Systems Centre in Brindisi, which would form part of the Service for Geospatial, Information and Telecommunications Technologies. The Secretary-General proposes to establish a total of nine posts, consisting of a Chief of the Centre (1 P-5), two Geospatial Information Systems Officers (1 P-3 and 1 Field Service), two Associate Geospatial Information Systems Officers (2 P-2) and four Geospatial Information Systems Assistants (4 national General Service), and to redeploy seven existing posts in the Geographic Information Systems Centre (1 P-4, 1 P-3, 1 Field Service and 4 national General Service). According to the report, a geospatial working group, with members from Headquarters, the Global Service Centre and the field, was convened to discuss the best way to optimize the efficiency of the services rendered by the Geospatial Information Systems Centre and extend accessibility of its services to all field missions. The working group identified the following functions, currently performed in all field operations, to be centralized at the Global Service Centre: (a) imagery management and processing; (b) spatial, terrain and environmental analysis; (c) geospatial application and development; (d) standardization of processes, products and data models, including enterprise geospatial database set-up and management; and (e) topographic and base mapping development (A/68/727, para. 21).

31. The Secretary-General indicates that by consolidating and centralizing the proposed geospatial functions in Brindisi, the Secretariat would benefit from resulting cost reductions at the mission level of approximately 15 per cent over a two-year period, and that the centralization of those functions, currently being performed in peacekeeping operations, would eliminate the need to acquire and maintain expensive software licenses for image processing/geospatial information systems/development platforms and the workstations/servers and equipment needed to operate them in all peacekeeping missions (A/68/731, para. 205 and A/68/727, para. 46). The Secretary-General identifies a total of 36 Professional, Field Service and national staff posts that would be abolished in peacekeeping missions over a two-year period: UNAMID (1 P-3, 2 P-2, 3 Field Service, 4 United Nations Volunteers), MONUSCO (1 P-2, 3 United Nations Volunteers), UNMISS (6 United Nations Volunteers offset by the creation of one National Professional Officer post), UNOCI (1 national staff, 2 United Nations Volunteers), UNIFIL (1 Field Service), UNSOA (1 National Professional Officer), UNAMA (1 national staff, 1 United Nations Volunteer) and the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (3 P-3, 3 P-2, 2 national staff and 2 United Nations Volunteers).[2] The Advisory Committee was informed that the Secretary-General projects total costs related to geospatial information systems in 2014/15 in Brindisi of $1,020,800 and reduced requirements in peacekeeping missions of $1,306,200, for a net projected savings of $285,400 in the same period attributed to the consolidation of geospatial functions in Brindisi. According to the Secretary-General, the cumulative savings attributable to consolidation of geospatial functions in Brindisi over the two-year period ending 30 June 2016 would amount to $716,400.

32. **The Advisory Committee notes that the Secretary-General's cost-benefit analysis of the consolidation of geographic information system functions in Brindisi is based, inter alia, on the reduction of posts in a number of missions currently being proposed for significant downsizing in the 2014/15 period. While the Committee does not object to the consolidation of geospatial information system functions in the Global Service Centre, it is of the view that there may be opportunities for further streamlining the staffing of the proposed Geospatial Information Systems Centre. In its report on the global field support strategy, the Committee expressed its expectation that any proposal for a global shared services architecture for support to all field missions led by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Political Affairs would be fully integrated with the pending global service delivery model and would be presented to the General Assembly for its consideration as soon as possible (see A/68/782, sect. IV). In this regard, the Committee is of the view that, pending the submission of a proposal for a global service delivery model and the identification of possible efficiencies through cooperation with other entities within the United Nations system in the provision of shared cartographic services (see para. 45 below), the Secretary-General's proposal for the consolidation of geospatial information systems functions in the Global Service Centre should be considered as a pilot initiative. The Committee therefore recommends that the General Assembly approve the establishment,**

[2] 1 P-3 and 1 P-2 have already been excluded from the initial requirement of the mission. These posts would otherwise be required to ensure adequate support for MINUSMA (see A/68/731, para. 205).

on a pilot basis, of general temporary assistance positions, comprising one P-5, one P-3, two P-2, one Field Service and two national General Service positions, for the Geospatial Information Systems Centre. It recommends against approval of two of the proposed national General Service posts.

Reclassification of posts

33. The Secretary-General proposes that the post of Senior Information and Communications Technology Officer (P-5) in the Office of the Chief of the Communications and Information Technology Service in Valencia be upgraded to the post of Chief of the Service for Geospatial, Information and Telecommunications Technologies at the D-1 level. The Chief of Service in Valencia would be responsible for the existing sections of the Service in Brindisi and in Valencia, in addition to the expanded Geospatial Information Systems Centre. **The Advisory Committee does not object to the proposed D-1 level for the Chief of the Service for Geospatial, Information and Telecommunications Technologies; however, taking into account its observations and recommendations that the leadership for such support should remain within the Global Service Centre in Brindisi (see paras. 16-20 above), the Committee recommends that the General Assembly approve the reclassification of the P-5 post of Chief of the Communications and Information Technology Service in Brindisi to the D-1 level to head the Service for Geospatial, Information and Telecommunications Technologies at the Global Service Centre in Brindisi and in the Valencia facility.**

Abolishment of posts

34. The Secretary-General proposes the abolishment of three posts in the Standing Police Capacity tenant unit in Brindisi, comprising one Training Adviser (P-4), one Police Reform Officer (P-3) and one Investigations Officer (P-3) and to establish them under the support account in the Police Division of the Office of Rule of Law and Security Institutions in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations. **The Advisory Committee has no objection to the proposed abolishment of the three posts in the Standing Police Capacity**. The Committee comments further on the establishment of posts in the Police Division in its report on the Support Account (A/68/861).

35. The Secretary-General also proposes the abolishment of the two national General Service posts in Brindisi dedicated to education grant processing functions, on the basis of the proposal in his fourth progress report on the implementation of the global field support strategy to extend the services currently provided by the Regional Service Centre in Entebbe, Uganda, as a pilot initiative, to include the centralized processing of education grant claims from those missions that are not client missions of the Regional Service Centre (A/68/731, annex I, paras. 20-25). **The Advisory Committee reaffirms its previous comments on the question of scalability in the context of the global field support strategy (see A/64/660, para. 118). The Committee considers that the provision of global functions from the Regional Service Centre is a significant departure from the initial vision for the global field support strategy, and it has recommended that the Secretary-General be requested to review the roles of the Global and Regional Service Centres in his final progress report on the implementation of the global field support strategy (see A/68/782, sect. IV). The Committee therefore recommends**

against the proposal to remove the global function of education grant processing from the Global Service Centre and the corresponding abolishment of two national General Service posts in Brindisi. The Committee recommends that the processing of education grant claims on behalf of missions that are not clients of the Regional Service Centre continue to be carried out using the resources of the Global Service Centre. The Committee provides further comments on the proposed pilot transfer of education grant processing to the Regional Service Centre in its report on cross-cutting issues related to peacekeeping (A/68/782, sect. IV).

2. Operational costs

36. The estimated operational costs for the period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015 amount to $25,614,600, representing a decrease of $771,400, or 2.9 per cent, compared with the apportionment for the current period. The net decrease reflects the combined effects of reduced requirements under facilities and infrastructure ($595,400, or 7.8 per cent), consultants ($197,000, or 28.6 per cent), other supplies, services and equipment ($159,800, or 11.8 per cent), official travel ($117,200, or 9.9 per cent) and medical ($8,300, or 2.3 per cent), offset in part by increased requirements under communications ($220,100, or 3.3 per cent) and information technology ($85,300, or 1.1 per cent). The increased requirements for communications are attributable to the allocation of indirect costs to support Umoja and other information technology systems in the field (A/68/727, para. 75).

37. Under official travel, a total of $1,072,000 is proposed for the 2014/15 period, a decrease of $117,200, or 9.9 per cent, compared to the current period. In the supplementary information provided to it, the Advisory Committee was informed that a total of 58 within-mission trips were planned in the 2014/15 period, compared to the total of only 37 such trips actually undertaken under the UNLB budget in the 2012/13 period. **Given the availability of videoconferencing facilities, and in anticipation of efficiencies from the measures adopted pursuant to General Assembly resolutions 65/268 and 67/254 concerning official travel, the Committee considers that a further reduction is possible under the budget for official travel in UNLB. It therefore recommends that the General Assembly approve an amount of $1,000,000 for official travel for the 2014/15 period**. The Committee comments further on need for policy guidance regarding official travel in section III of its report on cross-cutting issues related to peacekeeping (A/68/782).

38. The Advisory Committee was informed that of the total expenditure of $10,576,000 under facilities and infrastructure, in 2012/13, a total of $4,712,800 was expended on construction services, against an appropriation of $1,035,000. This represents an overexpenditure of $3,677,800, or 355 per cent. The Committee was informed that the overexpenditure was due, inter alia, to the construction of a cafeteria for staff use in the Valencia facility. The Committee was informed, upon enquiry, that when the food service requirements for the Valencia facility were initially defined, the staff could avail themselves of a full-service cafeteria in the immediate vicinity and that it was envisaged that only coffee and snacks would need to be provided at the Valencia facility. In the meantime, however, the cafeteria had been closed, leaving the staff without a nearby eating facility. The Committee was informed that the cost to the United Nations of constructing the dining facility in Valencia was €294,950 and that there was no agreement with the host country for

the provision of a dining facility in Valencia. In addition, the Committee was informed that there was an overexpenditure of $55,300, or 43.3 per cent, compared to the apportionment, for the acquisition of office furniture for the Valencia facility in the 2012/13 period. The Committee was informed, upon enquiry, that office furniture was originally planned to be provided by the host Government. **The Committee considers that the need for the construction of the dining facility and the procurement of furniture subsequent to receiving the premises from the host country is indicative of poor planning and follow-up, and it emphasizes the need to ensure that when facilities are provided under host country agreements all foreseeable requirements for United Nations use are taken into consideration.**

V. Other matters

Strategic deployment stocks

39. The Advisory Committee recalls that the value of the strategic deployment stocks was reduced by $50 million as of 30 June 2012, pursuant to paragraph 8 (a) of General Assembly resolution 66/266, in which the Assembly decided to apply $50 million from the strategic deployment stocks against the resources required for UNLB for the period from 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013. The Secretary-General, in his overview report on peacekeeping operations, indicates that the reduction in the strategic deployment stocks is a savings attributable to the implementation of the global field support strategy (see A/68/731, annex I, table A.5). In its financial report on the United Nations peacekeeping operations, the Board of Auditors notes that the value of the strategic deployment stocks as at 30 June 2013 was $91.4 million (A/68/5 (Vol. II), chap. IV, para. 21). The Board also noted that the composition of the strategic deployment stocks for 2013 was under review by the cost centres, taking into account the requirements of modularization (A/68/5 (Vol. II), table II.3). The Committee was provided, upon request, with additional information on expenditure for the three financial periods from 2010/11 to 2012/13, and cash position and holdings as at 20 February 2014 for the strategic deployment stocks (see annexes I-III). **The Committee is not convinced that the reduced level of the strategic deployment stocks may be considered a savings. It recommends that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to provide detailed information in his next report on UNLB on the review of the level and composition of the strategic deployment stocks, including information on inventory, both prior to and following the reduction in June 2012, and the efficiencies subsequently realized in the management of the strategic deployment stocks.** The Committee comments further on strategic deployment stocks in section IV of its cross-cutting report related to peacekeeping operations (A/68/782).

Global mission support teams

40. The Secretary-General introduces the concept of global mission support teams in the UNLB budget for 2014/15, according to which the teams would ensure the availability of an enabling capacity to rapidly build up facilities by drawing on a range of deployable individual modules and service packages that could be configured for required deployment (A/68/727, para. 13). According to the Secretary-General, the global mission support team concept would draw upon a

wider pool of expertise from missions to deploy for short periods for specific needs (A/68/637, para. 13). The Advisory Committee recalls that the Secretary-General had proposed that the development of mission support team capacities and the enhancement of the scope of available skills should be continued for the period 2012/13, and that the teams, comprising solely Global Service Centre staff, had been utilized in peacekeeping missions since 2010 (A/66/724, para. 16). The Committee was informed that the global mission support team concept proposed to expand the mission support team model to include international and national staff of field missions, in order to create a larger pool of rapidly deployable skills to missions that have modular requirements, and that the global mission support team concept was currently operating on a pilot basis for three missions, namely, MONUSCO, UNIFIL and UNOCI. It is indicated in the report of the Secretary-General on the support account that, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 67/287, the Office of the Under-Secretary-General includes an Operational Support Team in the Department of Field Support (A/68/742, para. 185).

41. **The Advisory Committee recommends that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to provide, in the context of his budget submission for 2015/16, detailed information on the operation of the global mission support teams, including on the actual deployment of the teams, efficiencies realized, plans for future activities, financing arrangements and lessons learned, as well as clarification on any relation the global mission support teams may have to the Operational Support Team.** The Committee comments further on temporary duty arrangements in section III of its report on cross-cutting issues related to peacekeeping.

Cooperation with other United Nations entities

42. According to the Secretary-General, the comprehensive operational mission procurement and acquisition support service, a global service package focused on providing support to special political missions, in particular those with limited or no procurement capacity, has been successfully implemented in UNOWA, UNOCA and UNSMIL. It provides a wide range of services related to supply chain management and creates an effective alternative model for service delivery in line with the principles of the global field support strategy (A/68/727, para. 30). The Advisory Committee was informed, upon enquiry, that the Global Service Centre uses the service to deliver functional expertise in the area of procurement primarily to special political missions.

43. The Advisory Committee was informed, upon enquiry, that services are provided to other United Nations entities through service-level agreements, which specify the kinds of services to be delivered, the associated cost and the duration of the agreement. The Committee was informed that a total of $1,101,500 had been recovered in respect to services provided to other United Nations entities, and that it is projected that such support will amount to $1,657,900 in the 2013/14 period and $2,747,700 in 2014/15. In the budget performance report for UNLB, however, a total of $352,300 is reported as revenue from miscellaneous income for the 2012/13 period (A/68/575, para. 31). In this regard, upon further enquiry, the Committee was informed that the amount of $1,101,500 was the value for services rendered in 2012/13 that was invoiced to the Office of Information and Communications Technology, the Office for the Coordinator for Humanitarian Affairs, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East and the

Joint Inspection Unit, based on the relevant service-level agreements for the provision of data centre, hosting and connectivity services; however, of this amount, $360,670 had been recorded in 2013/14 owing to late billing and $388,489 had been charged either directly to the budgets of the receiving entities based on financial authorization granted by the client entities or credited to the UNLB allotment, while the amount of $352,300 cited in paragraph 31 of the report of the Secretary-General was the amount actually recorded as miscellaneous income in the 2012/13 period.

44. **The Advisory Committee recommends that the Secretary-General be requested to include in his budget performance reports on UNLB detailed information on the support provided to other United Nations entities and to adopt a harmonized and coherent methodology for such reporting.**

Geospatial information

45. In its previous report on UNLB, the Advisory Committee noted that there was a need to clarify the respective roles and responsibilities of Headquarters, UNLB and field missions as regards the provision of geospatial services and the acquisition and maintenance of geographic information systems (A/67/780/Add.10, para. 62). The Committee was informed, upon enquiry, that entities in the United Nations system having geospatial or cartographic capacities included the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, the World Food Programme, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Development Programme, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization, the Economic Commission for Africa, the International Atomic Energy Agency, the International Civil Aviation Organization, the International Telecommunication Union, the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, the United Nations Institute for Training and Research, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the World Health Organization and the World Meteorological Organization. **The Committee reiterates that there is a need to clarify the respective roles and responsibilities of Headquarters, UNLB and field missions as regards the provision of geospatial services and the acquisition and maintenance of geographic information systems. It recommends that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to provide in his next report on the financing of UNLB information on the potential for cooperation and consolidation with entities within the United Nations system as regards the provision of geospatial services.**

Training

46. According to the Secretary-General, the proposed budget for UNLB provides for the training of a total of 266 international staff and 319 national staff in the 2014/15 period. The Advisory Committee was informed, upon enquiry, that the Valencia facility accommodated only hands-on information and communications technology training and workshop activities, and did not have a conference services capacity. The Global Secretariat Human Resources Meeting was hosted in the 2012/13 period because of its linkage to Umoja and to the Umoja preparation activities held in the facility. The Committee was further informed that the Chief Medical Officer/Chief Finance Officer Workshop was held in Valencia, but not on the premises of the Valencia facility. **The Committee recommends that the**

General Assembly request the Secretary-General to provide detailed information on the use of the training facilities at the Global Service Centre and at the Valencia facility in his budget submission for the 2015/16 period. The Committee comments further on the subject of training in its report on cross-cutting issues related to peacekeeping.

VI. Recommendation

47. **The action to be taken by the General Assembly in connection with the financing of UNLB for the period from 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013 is indicated in paragraph 31 of the budget performance report for 2012/13 (A/68/575). The Advisory Committee recommends that the unencumbered balance of $4,600, as well as the income and adjustments in the amount of $1,160,600, be credited to Member States in a manner to be determined by the Assembly.**

48. **The actions to be taken by the General Assembly in connection with the financing of UNLB for the period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015 are indicated in paragraph 77 of the proposed budget for the period (A/68/727). In view of its recommendation in paragraphs 28, 29, 32, 33, 35 and 37 above, the Advisory Committee recommends that the estimated budget requirement be reduced by $1,147,300, from $71,485,900 to $70,338,600. Accordingly, the Committee recommends that the General Assembly:**

(a) **Approve the amount of $70,338,600 for the maintenance of UNLB for the 12-month period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015;**

(b) **Prorate the amount set out in subparagraph (a) above among the budgets of individual active peacekeeping operations to meet the financing requirements of UNLB for the period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015.**

Documentation

- Report of the Secretary-General on the budget performance of the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy, for the period from 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013 (A/68/575)
- Report of the Secretary-General on the budget for the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy, for the period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015 (A/68/727)
- Report of the Secretary-General on the overview of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations: budget performance for the period from 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013 and budget for the period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015 (A/68/731)
- Report of the Board of Auditors on the accounts of the United Nations peacekeeping operations for the 12-month period from 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013 (A/68/5 (Vol. II))
- Fourth annual progress report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the global field support strategy (A/68/637)

- Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the budget performance for the period from 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2012 and proposed budget for the period from 1 July 2013 to 30 June 2014 of the United Nations Logistics Base (A/67/780/Add.10)
- General Assembly resolution 66/266, on the financing of the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy

Annex I

Strategic deployment stocks: expenditure from 2010/11 to 2012/13

(Thousands of United States dollars)

	2010/11	*2011/12*	*2012/13*
Engineering			
Facilities and infrastructure	3 971	4 705	4 512
Information technology	56	(4)	–
Subtotal	**4 027**	**4 701**	**4 512**
Information and communications technology			
Communications	347	476	2 884
Information technology	9	2 027	520
Subtotal	**356**	**2 503**	**3 404**
Supply			
Facilities and infrastructure	905	1 630	516
Medical	263	334	285
Special equipment	–	–	–
Other supplies, services and equipment	4 139	–	866
Subtotal	**5 307**	**1 964**	**1 668**
Transport			
Ground transportation	4 408	13 667	14 932
Subtotal	**4 408**	**13 667**	**14 932**
Total	**14 098**	**22 835**	**24 515**

Annex II

Strategic deployment stocks: cash position as at 20 February 2014

(Thousands of United States dollars)

Cost centre	*Available funds*
Engineering	22 297
Information and communications technology	21 274
Medical	346
Supply	3 512
Transport	19 805
Total	**67 234**

Annex III

Strategic deployment stocks: goods in stock as at 20 February 2014

(Thousands of United States dollars)

Controller's group	*Purchase value*
Accommodation equipment	1 099
Communications equipment	6 914
Data-processing equipment	1 480
Generators	1 913
Medical equipment	1 134
Miscellaneous equipment	5 567
Other[a]	2 747
Observation equipment	459
Office equipment	22
Petrol tank plus metering equipment	350
Prefabricated buildings	9 035
Refrigeration equipment	1 275
Security equipment	197
Transport accessories	10
Vehicular equipment	19 701
Water and septic tanks	206
Water purification equipment	880
Total	**52 988**

[a] Expendable items for which no expenditure group has been assigned in Galileo.